Effective steps to revive PSUs

527. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not taken any effective steps to revive the sick industrial Undertakings;

(b) whether the decisions taken in each case by BIFR were not based on realistic basis; and

(c) if so, the acts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government are making various efforts to revive and rehabilitate the potentially viable and revivable sick enterprises.

(c) Does not arise.

Permission to Coca-Cola for Investment in India

528. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the Coca-Cola and six other foreign companies for investment in India;

(b) if so, the names of these companies with terms and conditions;

(c) whether such provisions also stipulated that these foreign companies will also transfer technology of their Enterprises to existing Indian Units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Sir, During the post-policy period (Aug. 1991-September 1997), 11815 number of Foreign Collaborations have been approved by the Government. These include 4932 proposals of technical collaboration and 6883 proposals in which FDI is also involved. The proposal of M/s. Coca Cola is also included in these. The details of such proposals viz; name and country of Foreign Collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly News-letter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

With a view to injecting the desired level of technological dynamism in Indian Industry, Government have substantially liberalised approval procedures for foreign technical collaborations. These include an automatic approval facility, relaxation in norms for hiring foreign technicians and foreign testing of indigenously developed technologies. Indian companies have been given freedom to negotiate the terms of technology transfer with their foreign counter-part according to their commercial judgement.

Financial autonomy to PSUs

529. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nine Public Sector undertakings have been given financial and functioning autonomy;

(b) if so, give names of such Institutions;

(c) whether such a move will benefit the country in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) The Government have given substantial financial and functional autonomy under Navratna package to nine PSUs to help these enterprises to become global giants. This move is expected to benefit the PSUs, and consequently the economy and the country also by making them even more competitive, profitable and of a global

standard. Subsequently, two more enterprises namely GAIL & MTNL are extended similar autonomy. These enterprises are listed below.

1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)
2. Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (BPCL)
3. Gas Athority of India Ltd. (GAIL)
4. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd. (HPCL)
5. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
6. Indian Petrochmeicals Corpn. Ltd. (IPCL)
7. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)
8. National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC)
9. Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. (ONGC)
10. Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)
11. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)

VRS in PSUs

530. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any evaluation of the success of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the major public sector undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) total number of workers opted for VRS so far and amount paid to them, PSU wise since the introduction of VRS in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Schemes for voluntary retirement aimed at reducing surplus manpower are a part of the overall strategy of enterprises for improving their performance and reducing costs, and have thus to be seen in the larger context. As per available information 2,17,489 employees opted for VRS upto 31.3.1997 and an amount of Rs. 2373.37 crores was paid to them. A statement giving PSU wise details is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of PSU	Number of Employees	Amount Paid (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	55	89
2.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	246	NA
3.	C.M.C. Ltd.	39	NA
4.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	503	744
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	148	295
6.	Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	7	7
7.	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	9	NA
8.	Praga Tools Ltd.	160	NA
9.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	16	NA
10.	Oil India Ltd.	5	6
11.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	12188	NA
12.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	330	699*
13.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	5736	6420
14.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.	12	19
15.	Engineering Project (India) Ltd.	176	412
16.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	5472	12077